

(1903.)

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**SECRETARY**

OF THE

Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

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*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

In reviewing the events of the closing year, the sixteenth of the Society's existence, there is very little to report, since very little, at least in the research of past history, was accomplished.

But one original article was read and that one by a gentleman not a member of the Society. "Whilst this may be considered a matter of regret, the regular meetings of the Society were nevertheless of interest, profit and pleasure to those attending. Many an interesting question was brought up, awakening earnest discussion and spreading over a wide field.

Our Library has again been enlarged by valuable additions both by purchase and by donations. Those who kindly remembered us with donation of their own publications and otherwise were:

1. The New York State Library.
2. The Wisconsin State Historical Society.
3. The Ohio Archæological and Historical Society.
4. The German-Pennsylvania Society.
5. The Transalleghey Historical Society.
6. The Virginia Historic Society.
7. The German American Historical Society of Illinois.

8. The Historical Society of the Bremen Künstler-Verein.
9. The Maryland Historical Society.
10. The Franklin and Marshall College.
11. The Johns Hopkins University.
12. The Enoch Pratt Free Library.
13. The Cleveland Wächter.
14. The German Correspondent.
15. The Baltimore Journal.
16. Mr. J. G. Rosengarten.
17. Mr. H. A. Rattermann.
18. Dr. Eugene Cordell.
19. Rev. Edward Huber.
20. Mr. L. P. Hennighausen and
21. Your Secretary.

By order of the Society the Seventh to the Fifteenth Annual Reports inclusive were neatly bound and each member presented with one copy in addition to the two paper bound copies received previously. There being no other papers submitted to the Executive Committee suitable for publication than the Secretary's and Treasurer's Annual Reports, the publication of these were deferred to some later period.

The Society as such during the year became a member of the National German-American Historical Society, organized during the preceding year in the City of Philadelphia by a number of representative gentlemen. The name indicates the wide field this Society has chosen for its activity. Naturally the different State Societies will in the course of time become auxiliaries to the one above in their general objects.

It is to be regretted that the number of active members of this Society is not on the increase, but rather on the decrease. Those of Pennsylvania and Illinois number hundreds of enthusiastic supporters. It is true, the history of the early German settlers of this State has thus far proven very meager, so that we cannot boast of achievements equal to those more fortunately situated, the object of this Society, however, is deserving of more hearty support on the part of those who by reason of relationship as well as a pardonable natural pride should feel an interest in our efforts.

In all directions we see an unusual activity in the field of the earlier settlers of this country. If our German forefathers have been robbed of much of their merit in the development of their adopted country by reason of their modesty, will the children add to the injury by reason of their indifference?

During the year one of our active members died, viz: Mr. N. M. Rittenhouse, who departed this life on May 2nd, 1902. Two resigned and one neglected to pay his dues. Two active members were added during the same time. We close the year with forty-four active members.

RESPECTFULLY,

F. PH. HENNIGHAUSEN, Secretary.

*Baltimore, February, 17, 1903.*

